

CLAIMS

- 5     (1.) A tree stand comprising a fluid reservoir about a tree retaining member including tree gripping means, wherein the tree gripping means comprise at least one projection.
- 10    2. A tree stand comprising a fluid reservoir and a tree retaining member, wherein strengthening means are provided between the fluid reservoir and the tree retaining member.
- 15    3. A tree stand comprising a fluid reservoir and a tree retaining member including spacing means, wherein the spacing means are arranged in use, to maintain separation between at least part of the end of the tree retained by the tree retaining member and a base portion of the tree retaining member.
- 20    4. A tree stand as claimed in any one of Claims 1-3 wherein the tree retaining member is mounted within the fluid reservoir.
- 25    5. A tree stand as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the tree retaining member does not substantially protrude from the cleared reservoir.
6. A tree stand as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the fluid reservoir comprises a cylindrical or frustoconical member being closed at one end thereof, and the tree retaining member is connected to the closed end of the cylindrical or frustoconical member.

7. A tree stand as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the tree stand further comprises a diaphragm on which is mounted a tree retaining member.
8. A tree stand as claimed in Claim 7 wherein the tree retaining member comprises an aperture within the diaphragm.
9. A tree stand as claimed in Claim 8 wherein the tree retaining member comprises a substantially cylindrical member or a substantially frustoconical member mounted within the diaphragm.
10. A tree stand as claimed in any one of Claims 7-9 wherein the diaphragm is arranged to be detachably connectable to the fluid reservoir, in use.
11. A tree stand as claimed in any one of Claims 7-9 wherein the diaphragm is immovably fixed to the fluid reservoir in use.
12. A tree stand as claimed in any one of Claims 7-11 wherein the diaphragm comprises a body region and an edge region.
13. A tree stand as claimed in Claim 12 wherein the edge region is arrangeable to, in use, contact an edge of the aperture of the fluid reservoir when the diaphragm is arranged with the fluid reservoir.
14. A tree stand as claimed in Claims 12 & 13 wherein the edge region of the diaphragm is arranged to be push fit within the aperture of the fluid reservoir.
- (15). A tree stand as claimed in any preceding claim, comprising tree gripping means comprising a plurality

of projections arranged on the interior surface of the tree retaining member.

16. A tree stand as claimed in Claim 15 wherein the projections comprise veins running substantially axially with the tree retaining member.

17. A tree stand as claimed in Claim 16 wherein the veins are arranged to maintain a degree of separation between a tree trunk inserted into the tree stand, and portions of the interior surface of the tree retaining member.

18. A tree stand as claimed in any one of Claims 15-17 wherein the projections include a sharp or pointed portion arranged in use to at least partially penetrate the trunk of a tree inserted into the tree retaining member.

19. A tree stand as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the fluid reservoir and tree retaining member are in fluid communication.

20. As claimed in any one of Claims 2 & 4-19, wherein the strengthening means comprises a rib.

21. A tree stand as claimed in Claim 20 wherein the strengthening means comprises a plurality of ribs.

22. A tree stand as claimed in Claim 20 or 21 wherein the or each rib extends from the tree retaining member towards the fluid reservoir.

23. A tree stand as claimed in any one of Claims 20-22 wherein the or each rib connects between the tree retaining member and the fluid reservoir.

24. A tree stand as claimed in any one of Claims 20-23 wherein the or each rib protrudes from the closed end of the fluid reservoir.

25. A tree stand as claimed in any one of Claims 20-24  
5 wherein the or each rib comprises a hollow rib.

26. A tree stand as claimed in Claim 25 wherein the or each hollow rib is in fluid communication with the tree retaining member.

27. A tree stand as claimed in Claim 25 or 26 wherein the  
10 or each hollow rib is formed from a shaped portion of the fluid reservoir.

28. A tree stand as claimed in any one of Claims 20-27 wherein the or each rib comprises guiding means arranged in use to assist in the association of a tree  
15 with a tree retaining member.

29. A tree stand as claimed in Claim 28 wherein the guiding means comprises at least one guiding surface arranged at an angle to the tree retaining member.

30. A tree stand as claimed in any one of Claims 3-19  
20 wherein the spacing means comprises at least one projection arranged to protrude from the base of the tree retaining member.

31. A tree stand as claimed in Claim 30 wherein the projection comprises a domed projection.

25 32. A tree stand as claimed in Claim 30 or 31 wherein the projection is arranged concentrically with the tree retaining member.

33. A method of securing a cut tree in a tree stand, the method comprising the steps of:

- 5 (a) providing a tree stand comprising a fluid reservoir about a tree retaining member, wherein strengthening means are provided between the fluid reservoir and the tree retaining member;
- 10 (b) shaping a portion of the trunk of the cut tree at the cut end of the tree such that its surface dimensions are substantially identical to the interior dimensions of the tree retaining member; and
- 15 (c) inserting the shaped portion of the trunk into the tree retaining member such that the tree is secured to the interior of the tree retaining member by abutment of the tree with the interior surface of the tree retaining member.

34. A method of securing a cut tree in a tree stand, the method comprising the steps of:

- 20 (a) providing a tree stand comprising a fluid reservoir about a tree retaining member including tree gripping means, wherein the tree gripping means comprise at least one projection;
- 25 (b) shaping a portion of the trunk of the cut tree at the cut end of the tree such that its surface dimensions are substantially identical to the interior dimensions of the tree retaining member; and
- (c) inserting the shaped portion of the trunk into the tree retaining member such that the tree is

secured to the interior of the tree retaining member by abutment of the tree with the interior surface of the tree retaining member.

35. A method of securing a cut tree in a tree stand, the  
5 method comprising the steps of:

- 10 (a) providing a tree stand comprising a fluid reservoir about a tree retaining member including spacing means arranged to in use maintain separation between at least part of the end of the cut tree retained by the tree retaining means and a base portion of the tree retaining member;
- 15 (b) shaping a portion of the trunk of the cut tree at the cut end of the tree such that its surface dimensions are substantially identical to the interior dimensions of the tree retaining member; and
- 20 (c) inserting the shaped portion of the trunk into the tree retaining member such that the tree is secured to the interior of the tree retaining member by abutment of the tree with the interior surface of the tree retaining member.

36. A method as claimed in any one of Claims 33-35 further comprising the step of adding water to the fluid reservoir.